Restructuring of AFHQ Stenographers Service

3080. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to restructure the AFHQ Stenographers Service was made by the concerned Association;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received;

(c) action taken on the proposal so far; and

(d) action proposed to be taken for acceptance of the proposal in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Stenographers' Service Association has made the proposal to restructure their cadre. This includes enhancement of the posts at senior level in the grades of Senior Principal Private Secretary, Principal Private Secretary, Private Secretary and Personal Assistants and amendment of the Recruitment Rules of AFHQ Stenographers' Service on the lines of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) rules.

(c) and (d) The request of the Association is being examined in consultation with Service Headquarters and Inter Service Organisations where the AFHQ stenographers are posted and Department of Personnel and Training. Efforts are being made to receive the report from all agencies expeditiously.

Report on restructuring of AFHQ Civil Service

3081. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2381 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the Committee of Senior Officers in the Ministry of Defence constituted to consider restructuring of AFHQ Civil Service has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommndations;

(c) what action has been taken on the recommendations received;

(d) likely time by which decisions on each of the recommendations is likely to be taken; and

(e) if answer of (b), (c) and (d) are in the negative, likely date by which the recommendations are anticipated to be received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Committee *inter-alia* include enhancement of posts at all levels of AFHQ Civil Service from Assistant to Principal Director by providing matching savings, direct entry at Section Officer level only and grant of non-functional pay scale of Rs. 8000-13500 to Section Officers.

(c) to (e) the report is under examination of the Government in consultation with Ministry of Defence (Finance) and Department of Personnel & Training. Government will take decision as soon as the consultation process with concerned department is over.

Shortage of Personnel

3082. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of personnel in certain departments/wings of the Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) will Government consider granting commission to other ranks to fill the vacancies of officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.